

BARRE GAZETTE

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Selectmen set June 23 as town election day

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE — Although selectmen voted to postpone the annual town election in late March, they did not select a date.

The board at its April 21 meeting unanimously voted to hold the annual town election, Tuesday, June 23. Town clerk Ellen Glidden originally suggested a date of June 30. Selectman Greg O'Sullivan said he was uncomfortable with pushing the date to the "11th hour." Selectman chair Matthew Urban suggested moving the election to June 23 "in the event something crazy happens."

The town clerk said both precincts would be open and recommended election hours from noon-8 p.m. to reduce election workers exposure. O'Sullivan said he wanted to change as little as possible for people and wanted to leave everything the same as possible. He said the hours should remain the same from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Selectman Dylan Clark said voters that could not make the reduced polling hours had the option of early voting or voting by absentee ballot.

Glidden said she would send a postcard mailing to residents about the election date change, do a reverse 911 call reminder as well as put on the town website and Facebook. The June 23 election would use the ballots printed for the April 6 election. She said there were two contests on the ballot for board of health and planning board.

Police department

Police chief John Carbone said his officers can't take vacation

See BARRE page 5

'Camp Quarantine' connects scouts across the region



Barre Pack 26 Tiger Cooper, left, and Lion Deklan, prepare supper.

By Paula Ouimette
Correspondent

The arrival of spring brought with it the promise of camping adventures for Scouts everywhere, but the coronavirus pandemic has prevented packs and troops from gathering together. To continue fostering a love of the outdoors, the Heart of New

England Council, BSA, invited Scouts of all levels to join in a virtual campout, Camp Quarantine 2020, this past weekend. Opening ceremonies began Friday afternoon via live feed on Facebook and continued through Saturday. Scouts and their families set up camp inside the comfort of their own homes, or braved the cool weather outdoors.



The Ouimette family celebrates the completion of setting up their campsite.



The Sampson family set up a comfortable campsite in their backyard.

Cub Scouts participated from all over, including from Barre Pack 26 and Ware Family Pack 520.

This was the first official Cub Scout camping experience for Pack 520: Lions, Jackson Miller and Penny Ouimette; Bear, Quinn Ouimette; and Webelo, Sadie Ouimette, all joined in. Tiger Cooper Sampson and Lion Deklan Sampson, brothers from

Barre Pack 26, braved the elements outdoors in their backyard.

The Scouts agreed that one of the biggest challenges they faced at Camp Quarantine, was setting up camp indoors. Pitching a tent in the confines of your living room required good com-

See CAMP QUARANTINE,
page 6

Selectmen present budget draft

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

OAKHAM – Selectman chair Steven Labarre presented a draft budget to the board of selectmen.

He said to the other two members of the board of selectmen that he put together a draft budget and sent it to them. He said, "It was their budget as he would not be on the board at annual town meeting."

The budget included a new cruiser for the police department. Labarre said the capital plan calls for a new lease every two years. He said the cruiser up for replacement was in good shape with low mileage and was much better than other vehicles in the past.

Selectman Bradford Taylor said he was not sure a new cruiser was necessary. Selectman Lucy Tessnau said she would like to see the cruiser not purchased until January 2021. Selectmen opted to include the lease of a cruiser with the note to the finance committee that it be purchased in the second part of the fiscal year.

Labarre said he included in his budget draft a 2 ½ percent raise for town employees. Departments requested level funding to five percent. He said the salary increase at the library was mostly an increase in hours rather than raises. Labarre said his budget included what Fire Chief Seth Knipe recommended for the fire chief. Although the fire chief's salary increased, other wages decreased. The cost of the ambulance was considerably less as the town was looking to use Rutland

See OAKHAM, page 6

Quabbin School District closed for remainder of school year

BARRE – Quabbin Regional School District (QRSD) School Superintendent Dr. Sheila Muir sent a letter April 21 to students, parents, faculty and staff announcing school would be closed for the remainder of the school year.

Her letter said, "This afternoon Governor Baker and Department of Elementary and Secondary

Education (DESE) Commissioner Riley announced that schools in Massachusetts will remain closed for the remainder of the school year to ensure the health and safety of all students, families and staff and to continue to slow the spread of COVID-19."

She said, the district "will continue to implement the QRSD Remote Learning Plan that

launched on April 13 through the extended period of school closure. The plan is carefully designed by teams of Quabbin educators to address essential skills and content and minimize learning loss. It is important to note that although students and educators will not be meeting face to face in the classroom environment, school is continuing remotely through June 24

and participation is required of all students."

The superintendent said, "We know that participation in remote learning may be more challenging for some students than for others. Our school administrators and district administrative team work very closely with all educators to arrive at creative and flexible solutions to support student suc-

cess with remote learning. If you are experiencing challenges, or have questions, please contact your child's teacher(s), as they know your child best, and will likely have suggestions as to steps that can be taken to resolve your concerns."

In the coming weeks, the district will send surveys to students, parents and educators seeking

information about their remote learning experience. The information gathered from the surveys will be used by the district to refine the Remote Learning Plan to ensure that it is responsive to the needs of students. The district desires to make remote learning as successful as possible for each

See QRSD, page 5

QRSD superintendent give select board update

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

HUBBARDSTON – Quabbin Regional School District (QRSD) Superintendent Dr. Sheila Muir gave the Hubbardston select board an update on school closing and remote learning.

Speaking remotely at the April 20 meeting she said as things unfolded Friday, March 13, it became clear that very few schools would be open, the district decided to close schools. The initial focus was to provide breakfast and lunches to students without food. By Tuesday, food service was making breakfast and lunches at two sites: Hardwick Elementary School and Quabbin Regional Middle High School. The first distribution of meals was 83 at Hardwick school and 22 at the middle high school. The numbers increased to 350 in Hardwick and 626 at the middle high school. To date, the school provided a lit-

tle over 20,000 meals. Children pre-school to age 18 are eligible. The district distributed three days per week Monday, Wednesday and Friday and delivering some meals to those with transportation issues.

Dr. Muir said the district received a \$10,000 grant for food service. The district planned to order a machine that would package meals in containers that can be heated in the oven. They also used some of the grant for signs about food distribution.

She said principals are going to the school office as needed. She said custodians go into schools regularly to flush toilets and run water to prevent lead build up in the pipes. They also completed cleaning of all spaces in the school buildings.

She said the district in the first few weeks provided enrichment materials with choice boards and paper copies for families without Internet service. With the extension of school closure, the district offered remote learning, Google classrooms and having students send back required assignments as outlined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines.

Teachers also conducted live sessions. Muir said some services are difficult to deliver remotely. She said the home schooling is very challenging for families with many families working from home. The school loaned out 375 Chrome books at the middle high school level and 325 at the elementary level. Some families have Internet challenges and are using paper. Muir said if the closure goes longer, the demand for devices would continue. Note: On Tuesday, April 21 the superintendent sent a letter to parents that school would be closed for the remainder of the school year.

She said she was not sure what graduation scheduled for June 5 would look like for high school seniors. She said the district would like to honor its students in June.

Road maintenance plan

Town administrator Ryan McLane presented the Chapter 90 road maintenance plan. Chapter 90 money was just over \$354,000. He said the plan included clustering of roadwork to maximize cost effectiveness. Roads on this year's list included a full-depth reclamation for Flagg Road at about \$200,000 and work on Hale Road

extension, Mt. Jefferson Road and Williamsville Road. He said the town received the bids and they "came in favorable." In August, the town would apply for a Small Town Road Assistance Program (STRAP) grant for Lombard Road, a million dollar project. McLane presented projects for the next five years.

Department of Public Works (DPW) director Travis Brown discussed the need for road maintenance on roads resurfaced five to seven years ago to prevent further deterioration from raveling. He said the new state required pavement that uses less oil was not holding up.

COVID-19 update

McLane said Hubbardston has less than five COVID-19 positive cases. A public health nurse was in daily contact with the positive cases.

Memorial Day parade

The town administrator said the Memorial Day Parade Committee cancelled the Memorial Day parade. Veterans that gave their lives would be honored that day in some form of ceremony with limited number of people. It also might be video taped.

Forsythia adds some brightness



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This hedge of forsythia provide some brightness on a cloudy day.



News of the Towns

Counting turtles

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS

DON'T INCLUDE ME

We would love to give you or your kids a fun little project each week.

Find **TURLEY** (the turtle) our new mascot within the paper. Have fun and count how many times you find Turley.

Email your results along with your name, town and turtle count from what paper to edowner@turley.com. We will post your name and count in the following weeks paper.

Correct answers will be submitted for a monthly drawing and a chance to win a prize.

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ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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APRIL 30TH IS THE DEADLINE TO REMOVE STUDDER TIRES

ORIGINAL TIRE CO.

Joseph West, Prop.

SOUTH ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL 978-249-3477

OPEN MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

SATURDAY 8 A.M. TO NOON

Service While You Wait

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Premium Grade Railroad Ties

\$24 ea, or 20 for \$400

8x40" Wood Grain Porcelain Tile

5 color choices @ \$1.49/sqft

24x48" Jumbo Porcelain Tile

3 choices @ \$1.49/sqft

2x6"x12" Alaskan Yellow Cedar

Extra-knotty grade

Great for raised garden beds

\$27 ea

James Hardie Cement Shakes

\$195/square

3 colors to choose from

T.S. MANN Lumber Co., Inc.

Conveniently Located on Route 32 in Athol

978-249-2206

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

MOC CFCE temporarily suspended playgroups and other family events until at least May 4 Governor Baker declared a state of emergency hoping to contain the spread of the coronavirus across the Commonwealth. The Parent Child Plus program will continue to operate with your Early Learning Specialist continuing to visit with enrolled.

Stage on Main, 17 South Main St., Orange has suspended all events until at least May 4 as a precaution against COVID-19.

Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham will be closed to the public until at least May 4. Library staff will be available to answer calls and assist with digital resources.

North Brookfield Savings Bank postponed its free homebuyers and brews homebuyers' night scheduled for April 30 at Oakholm Brewing Co. in Brookfield.

Massachusetts 4-H programs, activities and club meeting are cancelled until further notice. This includes advisory councils, fair boards, horse advisories and events. Groups are allowed to meet virtually.

Oakham Congregational Church will not hold Sunday worship service through May 3.

Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., Hubbardston is closed until at least Tuesday, May 4. The eggs will still be available Thursdays at the same time and produce will still be available Wednesdays and Fridays with pickup u outside. People may call the senior center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 with any questions.

The Gardner Museum, following recommendations from local and state health officials and American Alliance of Museums guidelines in response to ongoing COVID-19 prevention measures, will be closed to the public effective immediately until at least May 4.

All Barre Town Buildings will be closed at least until May 4 to the public, except by appointment and include the Henry Woods Building, Woods Memorial Library, the Council on Aging (senior center), old Town Hall, the public safety building, fire stations and DPW. Please call an office before visiting in many cases staff is able to assist over the phone or by mail. Meals on Wheels program and wellness checks for seniors will continue.

The town of Hubbardston is closing all town buildings to the public until at least May 4. Offices will continue to provide services of the government to residents. The closure will result in the delivery of services remotely. All public safety operations will continue.

The Haston Free Public Library in North Brookfield library trustees decided to close the library effective immediately until at least May 4. Library staff will be on site for short periods Monday through Thursday to collect mail and respond to phone messages.

East Quabbin Land Trust postponed its 19th annual dinner and silent auction to Saturday, Sept. 19.

The Asparagus Festival scheduled for Saturday, May 16 on West Brookfield Common has been cancelled for this year. It will return in May 2021.

EQLT rescheduled its accessible trail workday to June 21.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced that the opening of shoreline fishing has been postponed until Saturday, May 9. Boat launch areas at these properties will also open May 9. At this time, the Quabbin Visitor's Center is closed to the public, though the property is accessible. Those accessing the property are reminded that vehicles must exit at the posted time.

The Grandview Tenants Association has changed their annual raffle and bazaar from the beginning of June to the beginning of October this year.

Theatre at the Mount's (TAM) announced events likely to be cancelled are: TAMY Awards Gala (May) and "Honky Tonk Angels" performances (June). At this time, "Newsies" auditions (May) and Summer Drama Camp programs (July) may happen. For questions about tickets, people may contact box-office@mwcc.mass.edu. For other issues and concerns, please contact Professor Gail Steele at g_steele@mwcc.mass.edu.

Tri-Parish Community Church 2020 Plant, Bake, Tag, and Craft Sale originally scheduled for May 30 and 31 has been cancelled for this year. The annual event will be back the first weekend in June 2021.

New Braintree Select Board postpones ATM and town election

NEW BRAINTREE – In light of the current COVID-19 crisis, the New Braintree Select Board voted to postpone the Annual Town Election and the Annual Town Meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting has been postponed to Monday, June 29, at 7 p.m.,

The Annual Town Election will now take place on Saturday, June 13, from noon to 4 p.m.

Early voting applications are available online for anyone, who would prefer to vote early. Applications are available at the link <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/e/eabsentee/absidx.htm>.

Absentee applications may also be mailed to the Town Clerk's Office at the address above.

The last day to register to vote in the Annual Town Election is Wednesday, June 3.

ly-Ballot-A and must be mailed to Town Clerk's Office, 20 Memorial Drive, Room #5, New Braintree, MA, 01531

Absentee ballot applications are also available to those who qualify. For further information on absentee voting, or to obtain an application, people may go <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/e/eabsentee/absidx.htm>.

Absentee applications may also be mailed to the Town Clerk's Office at the address above.

The last day to register to vote in the Annual Town Election is Wednesday, June 3.

Those not already registered to vote may register to vote online or in person from 2 to 4 p.m. or 7 to 8 p.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall.

If people choose to vote in person, they should be aware that election officials will be following strict safety protocols. People should bring their own pen or pencil (not red); wear a mask to keep them and the election workers safe, and maintain all social distancing regulations.

People may contact town clerk Jessica A. Bennett at 508-867-2071, ext. 100, with any questions or concerns.

Have Something to Share?

Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

Round Town

Ellenor Downer

413-967-3505

Town election set for June 23

The Barre Board of Selectmen voted to hold the annual town election Tuesday, June 23 at its April 21 meeting. Both precincts will be open and polling hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

QRSD meal distribution days

The Quabbin Regional School District Food Service Department is distributing breakfast and lunch for all students in the district, age 18 and under. People do not have to attend a Quabbin school to participate. Distribution takes place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday while school is closed. Grab & Go breakfast and lunch will be distributed from 7 to 10 a.m. at the Hardwick Elementary School and the Quabbin Middle and High School. Distribution will continue during April vacation. If parents have difficulty with transportation for food pickup, they may contact the Central Office at 978-355-4668 or email school-meals@qrds.org.

Interest and fees waived for Barre residents

The Treasurer/Collector's Office announces that the Barre Board of Selectmen adopted the waiving of interest and fees for any bill according to specifics set forth by Bill H4617. What this means for Barre residents: real estate and personal property bills remain due for May 4, 2020 however, interest and fees will be waived if paid late, provided they are paid in full by June 30, 2020. Utility and excise bills that were due April 2, 2020 will also have interest and fees waived until June 30, 2020. If taxes are not paid by this date, all interest will be added retroactive to the original due date. Any tax bills due prior to March 10, 2020 will follow normal state guidelines for interest accrual and fee processing.

SNAP assistance

Anyone recently laid off due to the coronavirus may call Eileen Clarkson, HS-BCP, CDP, MS, MPA, director of the Barre Senior Center at 774-764-8702 for assistance in applying for the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Grandview Tenants Association postpones raffle and bazaar

The Grandview Tenants Association changed their annual raffle and bazaar from the beginning of June to the beginning of October this year.

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Grandview Tenants Association postpones raffle and bazaar

The Grandview Tenants Association changed their annual raffle and bazaar from the beginning of June to the beginning of October this year.

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Grandview Tenants Association postpones raffle and bazaar

The Grandview Tenants Association changed their annual raffle and bazaar from the beginning of June to the beginning of October this year.

Turtle count

The following people counted turtles in the April 23 Barre Gazette.

Barbara Kempski counted 7 turtles.

James and Lizzie Laramée counted 7 turtles.

There were 8 turtles in the edition.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2 cancels meetings

BARRE – Because the safety of auxiliary members is the major concern, all Auxiliary functions have been cancelled until further notice. Members will be kept informed as to when meetings will resume. The auxiliary wishes everyone a safe and healthy summer.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of May 4. No meals served on site only Meals on Wheels.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Teriyaki beef, steamed rice, broccoli, fruit, fortune cookie, marble rye bread

TUES. – Cinco de Mayo

Lemon pepper fish, potato au grain, roasted Brussels sprouts, fruit, whole wheat bread

WED. – Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, jardinière vegetables, dessert item, pumpernickel bread

THURS. – Mother's Day Meal

Chicken cordon royale with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, herbed carrots, dessert item, dinner roll

FRI. – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, fruit, Italian bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert

**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

News of the Towns

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Memorial Day parade cancelled

The Memorial Day Parade Committee announces the cancellation of the annual Memorial Day parade this year due COVID-19. Although there will be no parade, those that lost their lives during wars will be remembered with a small group of participants and maybe a video of the ceremony.

Nomination papers

The deadline for nomination papers has been extended to Tuesday, May 12 due to the postponement of the annual town election from Tuesday, June 9 to June 30.

Annual townwide cleanup

The annual Townwide Cleanup event by Keep Hubbardston Beautiful, including bottle/can drive and electronic recycling, has been postponed to a future date. People are still encouraged to pick up litter, take “before and after” photos and post them on Keep Hubbardston Beautiful’s Facebook page with the hashtags #trashtag and #KeepHubbBeautiful.

Council on Aging

Due to COVID-19 virus the town wide yard sale will be moved up to September. The Council on Aging will start taking donations for town wide yard sale as soon as the danger of COVID-19 is over. Egg delivery day changes

Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., Hubbardston is closed until at least May 4. The day for egg delivery changed to Fridays from 8 to 11 a.m. and produce will still be available Wednesdays and Fridays with pickup outside. People may call the senior center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 with any questions.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: All meetings are closed to the public and will be held remotely.

BARRE

Town Administrator Search Committee – May 4, May 5 and May 6 at 4 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – May 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Historical Commission – May 4 at 7 p.m.
Board of Assessors – May 5 at 6 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – May 5 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – May 5 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – May 6 at 1 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – May 7 at 3 p.m.
Board of Health – May 11 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – May 11 at 6:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – May 11 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees – May 13 at 7 p.m.21 at 7 p.m.
Sewer Commission – May 21 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – May 28 at 11 a.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – June 9 at 7 p.m.
Annual Town Election – June 23 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

HARDWICK

Recycling Commission – May 5 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – May 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – May 7 at 7 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – May 11, May 26, June 8 and June 22, July 6 and July 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – May 11 and June 8 at 5:30 p.m. and July 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – May 14 at 9:30 a.m.
Conservation Commission – May 19 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Historical Commission – May 2 at 10 a.m.
Board of Selectmen – May 4, May 11 and May 26 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – May 5 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – May 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Library Trustees – May 7 and May 14 at 7 p.m.
Open Space Committee – May 26 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Open Space and Recreation Committee – May 5 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – May 5 at 7:30 p.m.
Board of Health – May 7 and My 21 at 7 p.m.
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee 2020 – May 11 at 6:30 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – May 14 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – May 18 at 10 a.m.
Petersham Historic District – May 21 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – May 28 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee – April 30 at 6 p.m.
Select Board – April 30 at 6 p.m.
Annual Town Election – May 11

Fire damages West Brookfield Road home

NORTH BROOKFIELD – A house at 38 West Brookfield Road was badly damaged Saturday afternoon when a fire began in the basement, according to Fire Chief Joseph Holway.

It started near the wood stove in the basement and spread to the floor joists around the bathroom on the first floor, he said.

The call came in at about 1 p.m. and the Fire Department quickly called a second alarm, bringing other fire departments through mutual aid, he said. The residents exited the home, but reported their cat and dog were still inside. Firefighters got the pets out of the home, he said.

Brookfield, Spencer and Barre fire departments helped out at the fire while Rutland and Oakham fire departments helped cover the Fire Station while the fire was being fought, he said.

Power was shut off to the home and the residents could not return to their home, he said.

Hardwick

Town Meetings, town election set for June

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

HARDWICK – Selectmen set several town meetings and the Town Election dates at their Monday night meeting. They had postponed them temporarily when stay-at-home recommendations were put in place in mid-March to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

STM for sewer project

A Special Town Meeting, which was opened on March 16, with each of the five articles was tabled until April, is now set for Tuesday, June 2, at 6 p.m., at Hardwick Elementary School. It may be conducted outside.

At that meeting, voters will decide whether the town should borrow money to upgrade the town’s public sewer system. It will include improvements to the Gilbertville Water Pollution Control Facility, the Wheelwright Water Pollution Control System and the Route 32A sewer line upgrade from the Eagle Hill School to the Gilbertville Water Pollution Collection System.

A public information meeting about the sewer project, which was to be held earlier this year, has now been tentatively set for Tuesday, May 19, at 6 p.m.,

at the Hardwick Elementary School. It may be held outside as well.

Last fall town officials began discussing trying to forge a regional approach to its wastewater treatment plant and sewer line issues by working with Barre to eventually take sewerage from Wheelwright and with Ware to take Gilbertville sewerage. Officials from the USDA, which could fund up to 75 percent of what has been estimated to be a \$41 million project, have indicated they would favor a regional approach, according to selectmen and Town Administrator Theresa Cofske last fall.

The town has applied for potential USDA money to address the problematic sewer line from Eagle Hill School to the Gilbertville sewer lines last fall and for the larger USDA grant for the regional project by Feb. 1.

The town’s Wheelwright and Gilbertville wastewater treatment plants are failing and the line from Eagle Hill School has had numerous blockages and constant issues particularly over the last few years, including strong sewer odors in Gilbertville.

The Environmental Protection Agency, through the state’s

Memorial Day ceremonies moved online

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

GILBERTVILLE – The Memorial Day ceremonies will not be held in person at each of the locations in Hardwick this year, but selectman Julie Quink offered to put together something online to observe veterans who died while serving in the military.

“I know that there are a lot of people who enjoy the Memorial Day Parade and I’d like to do something,” she said. She will host it on Zoom, the online conferencing application. “Honestly, I’d be happy to host it. There’s been so much negative news these days and people are stuck inside their homes. I’d like to provide something, maybe on a lower scale than we normally do.

She said Town Clerk Paul Roberts, who always reads the names of the Hardwick veterans who died serving their country could do the same online, and recorded music could be played as well.

Quink said she would like to honor the veterans and this would be a good faith gesture. Resident Ann Barnes suggested ringing the Town House bell at a certain time, which Town Administrator Theresa Cofske said would be a nice idea.

Selectmen agreed it would be a good thing to do and Quink will pull it all together.

Hardwick is not alone in choosing not to go forward with Memorial Day ceremonies as Ware has also chosen not to hold theirs this year.

Quabbin assessment
Selectmen discussed the Quabbin Regional School District assessment for fiscal 2021, with selectman Kenan Young saying the increase was 10 percent above this year’s budget, for an increase of about \$265,534.47.

“It’s impossible to meet,” he said. “We will have to slash every department if we stick with this number.”

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a orrection, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



Turley Publications photo by Mandy Miller

Daffodils grace the cannon at the War Memorial in Gilbertville; this year there will not be any ceremonies although there will be an online reading by Paula Roberts.

“We can’t stick with it,” said Quabbin School Committee member Edward “Ned” Kelly, who represents Hardwick on the board.

Other communities are having problems with their assessments as well, he said, and if the budget remains the same it will likely be voted down in at least some of its member towns.

It was suggested selectmen and the Finance Committee talk about a number the town could support, and Quabbin School Committee should be told the town could not support such an increase.

Young said even if the town raised its tax levy by 2 ½ percent as the law allows, it would bring in about \$110,000 of

the \$265,534.

In other school finance matters, selectmen briefly discussed the bill for the remainder of the school year for VanPool services to bring students to Smith Vocational School. Young suggested not paying the remainder, but Cofske said other districts and communities are paying a percentage, mostly between 72 and 82 percent of the school year’s bill.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Town election set for May 18

The annual town election will be held Monday, May 18 with the poll at the Oakham Town Hall being open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The election date may change due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Oakham Congregational Church

The Oakham Congregational Church will not hold Sunday worship services through the month of April and Sunday, May 3 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Town hall

The Oakham Town Hall is closed to the public. All public meetings will be physically closed to the public. The Oakham Police Department and Fire Department will always respond immediately to all 911 emergencies.

Fobes Memorial Library

The Fobes Memorial Library will be closed to the public through at least May 4 at which time the situation will be re-assessed. Library staff will be available to answer calls and assist with digital resources.

COVID-19 critically ill patient dosed with plasma improving

UMass Memorial Medical Center has completed its first dosing of a critically ill COVID-19 patient with plasma and the results are encouraging. After hours of transfusion the patient has dramatically improved overall and is now starting to wean off of the ventilator after having required near maximal settings to oxygenate him prior to the plasma transfusion.

UMass Memorial Medical Center last week began asking residents from central Massachusetts, who have recently recovered after testing positive for COVID-19 to consider signing up for the convalescent plasma registry to join a list of potential plasma donors to help fight COVID-19. For providers who have COVID-19-positive patients in recovery, who may be candidates to donate plasma, contact UMassCOVIDplasma@umassmed.edu.

Coronavirus antibody testing provided to caregivers

Twenty percent of asymptomatic staff members that voluntarily underwent testing for the SARS-CoV-2 antibody at the Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center, which is now a temporary COVID-19 care and treatment center, had coronavirus antibodies in their blood. Those findings likely mean the caregivers had a mild infection from coronavirus and were able to mount an immune response against it or may have previously been infected with a virus similar to SARS-CoV-2. All caregivers at the facility will be informed of their test results by phone or mail this week. In addition to informing the caregivers of their results, the letter will also remind caregivers - whether testing positive or negative – to not change their behavior because of their individual results and to continue to exercise standard infection control precautions while at work, outside of work and in their homes.

Typically immune responses to a virus confer some degree of protection from being infected from the same virus again though there is not enough information to know if this is the case with COVID-19. Antibody testing is frequently used to understand what percentage of a population has been exposed to a virus. SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing in hard hit areas of the United States like Chelsea here in Massachusetts (30 percent positive) and the state of New York (16 percent positive) were random samples and not specifically focused on health care workers.

“Understanding the seroprevalence of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 is an important tool in our fight against COVID-19. We are so grateful to the Beaumont staff for being the first skilled nursing facility in the state to dedicate itself to caring for COVID-19 patients. Without them, we would not be able to keep up with the number of patients we are caring for with COVID-19. It seemed only fitting to offer them the opportunity to be tested first.” said Eric W. Dickson MD, President and CEO of UMMHC the provider of the testing.

UMass Memorial intends to offer free testing to some of its caregivers as increased testing capacity becomes available. SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing is currently available locally at CareWell Urgent Care Centers.

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We wish everyone good health and good luck during these difficult times.

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Opinion

Column

Social Security matters

Can my husband get a spouse benefit from me?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I'm wondering if my husband can submit a "restricted application for spousal benefits only." He is 76-years-old, has been receiving his benefit since 2005. His present benefit is \$263.50. I am 74-years-old, receiving my benefit since 2007. My present benefit is \$931. Am I to understand that he could be receiving half of my amount rather than his smaller amount? Signed: Inquiring Wife

Dear Inquiring Wife: Your husband isn't eligible to file a "restricted application for spousal benefits only" because he is already collecting his own Social Security benefits and because he is past 70 years of age. But he should probably be receiving a spousal benefit from you because his benefit is so much lower than yours. From what you've written, you both claimed your Social Security benefits when you were 62 years of age. That means you both took a 25 percent cut in benefits from what you would have gotten at your full retirement age of 66.

Spousal benefits are based upon FRA benefit amounts, even if you claimed benefits earlier. So, since your FRA benefit amount would have been about \$1,164 and your husband's FRA benefit would have been about \$330, by my calculations he should now be receiving a spousal benefit of about \$516 instead of his benefit of \$263.50. The computation for that is: Take half of your FRA benefit amount (\$582) minus your husband's FRA benefit amount (\$330); the difference (\$252) is added to his own current benefit (\$264) to get \$516 as his possible spousal benefit (note the actual numbers from Social Security may vary somewhat). This probably means that when you claimed your benefit two years after your husband claimed his, your husband didn't apply for his spousal benefit (and it wasn't awarded automatically by Social Security).

I suggest your husband contact Social Security as soon as possible and make an appointment to apply for his spousal benefits. Since he has been entitled to that benefit for some time now, he can also request six months of retroactive spousal benefits which they will pay in a lump-sum and adjust his monthly benefit to what he is entitled to as your spouse. There is also a possibility that, when you filed, Social Security failed to notify your husband he was eligible for a spouse benefit, in which case he may be able to collect his spouse benefit back to the date he became eligible. Your husband should contact Social Security directly at either 1-800-772-1213, or at your local office (find it at www.ssa.gov/locator) to make an appointment to apply for his spousal benefit from you. And, usually, this application can be accomplished over the phone.

Please note that all of the above assumes that your husband's current benefit isn't being reduced due to a non-covered pension which causes the Windfall Elimination Provision to lower his benefit amount, and which would cause the Government Pension Offset to severely alter, or even eliminate, his spousal benefit.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Letter to The Editor

Contact tracings difficult to do

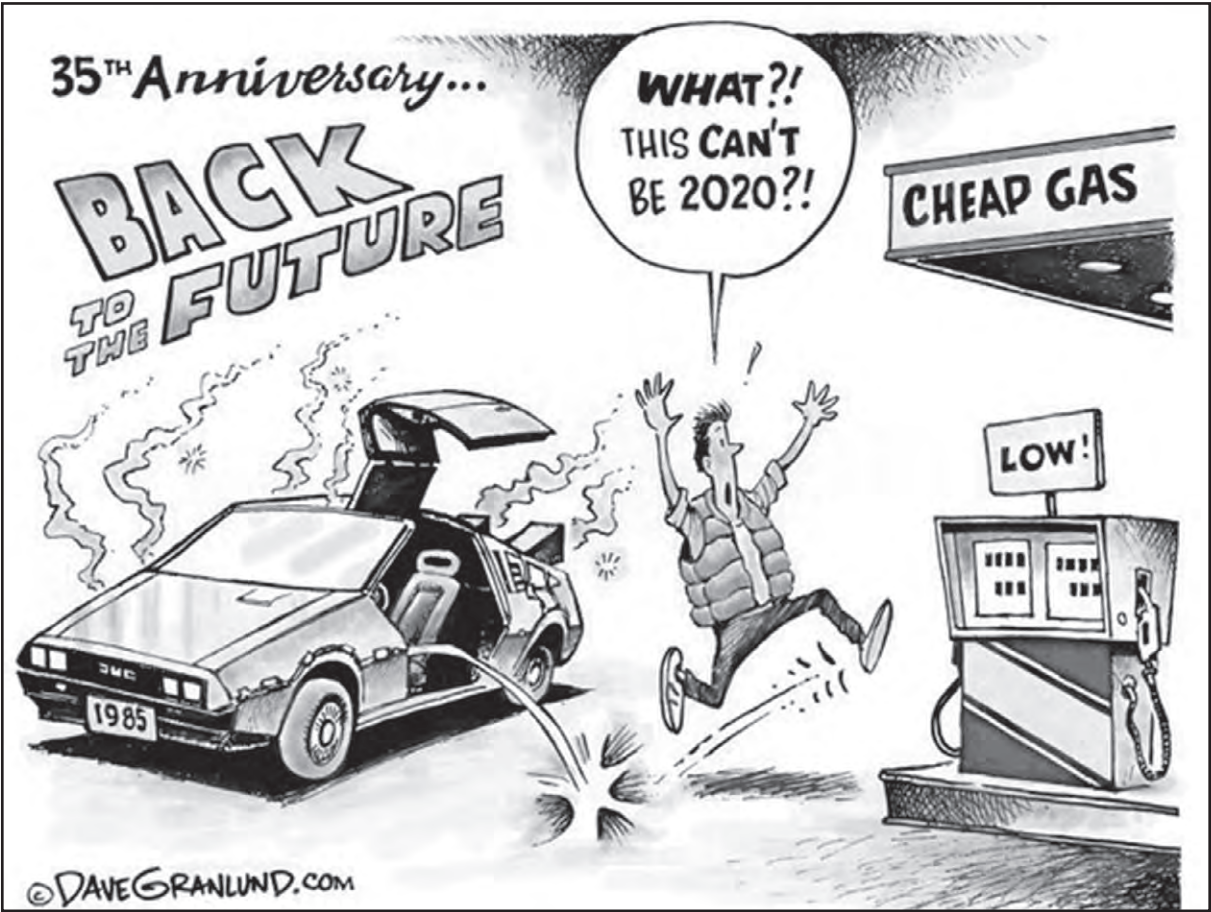
Contact tracing is a waste of resources because of the impossibility of identifying the vast number of people exposed to the virus. Consider the fact that many "infected" people are asymptomatic. They are walking around unknowingly infecting those whom they contact. How in the world are we going to track people who never know they had the disease or track those they infected? Makes no sense.

We need to focus on realistic containment measures that people will go along with. At one point, Massachusetts issued an advisory that all out-of-state travelers into Massachusetts were expected to quarantine themselves for 15 days. Why anyone wasted their breath making such a ridiculous announcement is beyond me. We do need to cooperate with all of the recommended disease-fighting weapons that have a realistic chance of success.

Applying our limited resources on developing medical treatments and vaccines will yield a much better and more important benefit than contact tracing. Instead of hiring thousands of disease detectives to perform contact tracing, spend that time and money on medical research to cure or prevent this disease.

Sincerely,
Paul Gallo
Barre

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA
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In Past Pages

. 5 years ago (April 30, 2015)

On April 22, students from Quabbin Regional High School participated in the Ninth Annual Science Trivia Challenge at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Carrying Capacity" placed first in the High School Silver Division and won a dinner out with an MIT Nobel Laureate. The team members included William Landry, Alex Aubuchon, Peter Delmastro, Chris Joanis and Stacie Lin.

Earlier this week, acting fire chief Robert Rogowski picked up a trailer equipped for confined space, trench rescue, rope rescue and structural collapse. A Homeland Security Grant funded the trailer. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Association (MEMA) required that every fire district in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have a fully equipped trailer to respond anywhere in the state to situations involving confined space, trench rescue, rope rescue or structural collapse. Central Massachusetts Homeland Security Council applied and received a grant for \$248,000 to purchase four trailers for the Mid-State Technical Response Team in Fire District 8. Barre, Gardner, Holden and Fitchburg will each house a trailer. Acting chief Rogowski said the council chairman, Fire Chief Patrick Sullivan of Lunenburg, has applied for additional grants. The Barre Fire Department has six firefighters trained as rescue technicians. The firefighters included: Vincent Aeito, Stanley Andriski, Scott Fritscher, Thomas George, Jason Pimental and Robert Rogowski. Acting chief Rogowski said the state has 65 trained rescue technicians. Six technicians are needed for a team. Teams are responsible to respond to emergencies. He said one of the reasons that Barre was selected to house the trailer for Fire District 8 was the fact they had six trained firefighters to make a team.

The Quabbin girls' varsity tennis team has had a rough start to the season, much like their Central Massachusetts counterparts, due to the rough winter across the region and cool temperatures in the early spring. Quabbin finally broke through with a 3-2 victory over Oakmont on April 27. The Lady Panthers (1-2) picked up a couple of key points on the singles side as Nicole Patterson was an 8-2 winner at second singles, while Abby Hurd helped out with an 8-2 win at third singles. Quabbin also secured a point on the doubles side at first with Emily Arseneault and Emma Miller with an 8-0 victory.

10 years ago (May 6, 2010)

Five Quabbin Regional High School students are on a mission to make their school a better place. These students – juniors Jen Ellis and Sean Ballard, and sophomores Emily Schmitz, Mary Pat Devine and Genesis Pepper traveled to the State House in Boston on April 7 for a Whole Child Leadership workshop. These students are also part of the "link crew," which is a freshman transition program.

LOOK BACK
Spring is Here - 1986



Turley Publications File Photo

Peter Hartman is shown tending to the plants at Hartman's Herb Farm.

The middle school Quabbin travel team scored well in recent basketball action. Last month, Quabbin completed a superb 18-5 record (11-3 large school divisional play) by winning the Monty Tech Tournament. "We wanted to play against larger schools," said one of the coaches, Chris Dion. "When the kids go onto high school, they're better prepared." They were led by Tyler Dion, Gray Dillon, Marco Gabrielli, Dylan Holmes, Danny Salvatore and Jake Boucher. The assistant coaches were Steve Boucher and Steve Topper.

Barre Savings Bank employees with some help from family members, gathered recently at Cemetery No. 4 in Barre to give the cemetery its well deserved spring cleaning. Barre Savings Bank adopted Cemetery No. 4 in the spring of 2019 as one way of giving back to their community.

25 years ago (May 4, 1995)

Bertrand Wood of Grandview Terrace was recently honored for 65 years of service to the Boy Scouts of America. He received a pin and letters from Scouting friends, wishing they could present the award at a special ceremony. A letter congratulating him on this rare honor said his dedication undoubtedly inspired youth across the country and dramatically affected their lives. Scout executives wrote, "As we congratulate you on 65 years of service to the Boy Scouts of America, our minds go back to the wonderful memories we have from our Scouting experiences. Your tenure must cause you to reflect upon the many Scouting relations which have ended in friendship and fellowship." Bert has many Scouting experiences to remember, dating back to when he joined the Lone Scouts of America in November of 1915 at the age of 12. Soon after he became a Lone Scout, he began writing to Scouts from all over the world. Later, he published the "Timber Trails Newsletter," a Scout publication, for many years. Scouting has always been a big part of Bert's life. He served as a Scout executive in New Bedford. His colleagues there encouraged him to attend the Scout training college in New Jersey and became a professional Scout executive. He served in this

capacity until he retired to Florida in 1968. In Florida he remained an active volunteer in Scouting. In 1976, he received the Silver Beaver Award. While Bert is less active these days, he remains interested in Scouting and is always willing to help a Scout with any project.

The Elder Nutrition Site in Barre has many volunteers who were honored during National Volunteer Week recently. They include: Emily Lamacchia, Corinne Hubbard, Anne Plante, Mary Rotondo, Site Manager Mary Coppolino, Glenna Bill, Anita Roy, Stanley Mknaitis, Howard Hubbard, Tony Thompson, Ralph Willey, Emily Cornacchia, Lillian Fries, Clara Gonsalves, Emily Mastronardo, Evelyn Mikelk, Irene Pichette and Virginia Unitis.

Coldbrook Country Club in Barre Served as the site of the 12th annual Quabbin Poetry Conference on April 28. Attending were 109 high school poets from 20 schools across Massachusetts. They discussed and read their works, and learned more about poetic techniques. This year's participants came from Marshfield to West Springfield from Narragansett to Hopkinton, with mentors coming as far away as Peterborough, N.H. Seven Quabbin seniors – Jessica Asfour, Brian Brissette, Felicite Fay, Amy Girardi, Glenn MacDonald, Addie McKeon and C.C. Roney – organized and facilitated the event and acted as hosts to visiting students and mentors. The day ended with a group reading by conference students and mentors. According to Jim Beschta, Quabbin Poetry Club advisor and founder of the conference, this was perhaps the most successful of the long string of workshop sessions that Quabbin has hosted.

38 years ago (May 5, 1982)

Eileen Spinney of Barre is a member of the 1982 Springfield College Women's Lacrosse team, which opened its season at home on March 14 against Yale University. A physical education major at Springfield, Eileen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce W. Spinney of Old Hardwick Road, and a graduate of Quabbin Regional

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Guest column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,

This cold rainy weather has made me very frisky this week in spite of my old age. After Missy and I had breakfast together, she went out.

I wondered just what I could do today for fun. Then, I remembered that Missy put something under the dining room table last night when she came home. I think they call them umbrellas to use when it rains. Anyway, it seemed to roll as I poked it, but not very far. I better not stretch my claws and tear the fabric. Inside of the thing, there seems to be some funny spokes and I tried to reach up and bat them, but I don't seem to have good balance today.

However, there is a handle that comes down and moves side to side. On the handle is a little bump on the side for me to play with. Crash, what happened? The whole thing came down on me and I am under it. What to do? I guess you just back out and hope for the best. Yippee, that worked and I am free. However, I am sure I am in trouble.

I better find a place to hide for a while. Whoops, I didn't make it and in comes Missy with the cleaner. They are busy talking and don't see what happened.

I like the cleaner and she likes me. I will just follow her around the rest of the day. I'll go into the living room and get on the back of the couch and wait until she comes in with her feather duster. When she gets to the rocking chair, we have fun. I bat the feather duster and she puts it between the slates of the chair and when she dusts the legs and under the seat of the rocker. She laughs at me and talks to me all the time and finally stoops down and pets me. So I purr loudly for her. After she leaves, I jumped up into the rocking chair and settled down for my morning nap.

Stay healthy folks.
Love,
Gertrude



2020 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

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Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

BARRE GAZETTE

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Submissions are always welcome. Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Hardwick. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, May 4. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week's edition. Dick Clark, Stephen Craven, Rosemary Horan and Bill Mucha correctly identified last week's photo. Last week's photo the Powder Mill Dam on the Ware River as seen from the Howard W. Dahart Memorial Bridge on Vernon Avenue, Barre.

Online application for bonuses available to service members

BOSTON – In 2019, the Office of the State Treasurer Veterans' Bonus Division launched an online application for the Massachusetts Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Welcome Home Bonus. Massachusetts service members and Veterans are now able to apply online, streamlining the application process and expediting bonus payouts.

Understanding the need and importance of an online presence, State Treasurer Deb Goldberg and the Veterans' Bonus Division established the online application in order to be fully accessible to Veterans and military families as they plan for their financial futures.

"Thanks to our team's efforts, that established the Welcome Home bonus online platform in 2019, we are now well prepared for this unforeseen situation," said State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, "Through our platform, we are able to quickly and efficiently get money into the hands of veterans who have so honorably served our country. This ensures that every Massachusetts service member has the opportunity to receive their

bonus payout. I am proud to work with the National Guard to assist veterans during this time of great economic uncertainty."

Since the beginning of this global pandemic, the online application has played an important role for the Veterans' Bonus Division in processing inquiries and awarding eligible service members. With the support of the Massachusetts National Guard, the Division was able to identify service members and award over \$40,000 in bonuses.

The National Guard created a non-profit alliance to bring together public and private agencies to collaborate in innovative ways to support the men, women, and families of the Massachusetts National Guard. The Treasurer's Office and the Massachusetts National Guard understand that the greatest impact on the lives of the men, women and families who serve, comes from the partnership of both public and private organizations.

The relationship built between the Treasurer's Office and the National Guard has helped identify hundreds of National Guardsmen

missing out on between \$500 and \$1200 in bonuses. This is a benefit that belongs to the service members and is helpful during the massive layoffs associated with the pandemic.

"The close relationship between the Massachusetts National Guard, the Non-Profit Partners, and Treasurer Goldberg's office has allowed our Soldiers and Airmen to take advantage of the Welcome Home Bonus," said Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Gregory C. Widberg, state command sergeant major of the Massachusetts National Guard. "These service members have, on countless occasions, supported and served the citizens of this great Commonwealth in times of disaster and uncertainty. They continue to do that now during the COVID-19 outbreak."

"Over the last three years the Veterans' Bonus Division has worked hard to streamline the process to make it easier for Veterans to apply for the bonus," states Steve Croteau, Veterans Bonus Manager. "That work and the relationship with the Massachusetts National Guard has positioned us with the ability to support Veterans remotely during this time."

By visiting VetsBonusMA.com service members and Veterans can apply and upload their required supporting documents from wherever they are. The online application will also increase the ability to analyze collected data to optimize outreach to Veterans within local organizations and communities. It takes approximately 10 days or less for the check to be mailed.

CAMP QUARANTINE, continued from page 1

munication and teamwork. Parent and Eagle Scout Brad Miller said the biggest challenge his family faced was, "staying in the camping mentality." Certainly no easy task when surrounded by all the comforts of home - especially a soft bed. Some of the benefits to virtual camping included staying dry and warm, and of course, no insects.

While the Scouts admitted they missed the company of their fellow pack members, they enjoyed seeing what Cub Scouts in other packs do for fun during their camping trips.

One aspect of camping that the Scouts look forward to the most is the food. The Ouimette family was able to roast hot dogs and marshmallows over their fire pit, while the Miller family enjoyed a pretend campfire and s'mores dip indoors.

When asked what the biggest difference between regular camping and virtual camping was, Pack 520 responded:

Sadie: "Nobody was there and it wasn't as fun as real camping."

Quinn: "There was no campfire in the living room and there is a



Cooper and Deklan had a successful scavenger hunt.

campfire outside."

Penny: "It's smaller inside, and it's bigger outside."

Jackson: "You need wifi for virtual camping. Also normally you sleep outside in nature but with virtual camping I got to sleep in a tent inside my house!"

From Pack 26, Cooper and Deklan both agreed that they "missed being able to get together with our friends." But they enjoyed not having to pack up as much gear as a regular campout.

The Scouts enjoyed the traditional camping fare of hot dogs and beans and roasted marshmallows. They even made cinnamon bun doughnuts. When asked that their favorite Camp Quarantine memory was, they both replied, "playing in the tent, roasting marshmallows and learning how to yo-yo."

These Cub Scouts are looking forward to their next outdoor adventure and they are hopeful to have a "real" pack campout soon.



Turley Publications submitted photos

Ware Family Pack 520 Lion, Jackson Miller, age 6, is ready to attend Camp Quarantine.



Scouts interacted and learned new skills and songs virtually.

OAKHAM, continued from page 1

ambulance.

Labarre said he added \$1,000 to hire a public health nurse for the Board of Health. Board of health member Aaron Langlois was currently acting in that capacity. Labarre said he reduced the Parks and Recreation budget from \$4,200 to \$2,200 to reflect the amount of money they spent this year. Chair Chris Dunbar said that he did not have an issue with the change in light of all that was going on on at this point. Labarre said if Parks and Recreation found they needed something special to talk to selectmen.

The budget included a \$1,000 certificate stipend for the treasurer/collector as well as a 2 1/2 percent raise. She completed certification and qualified for the stipend.

The draft budget reduced the veterans agent budget by half as no one was receiving services at

this time, but that might change. Selectman Tessnau said the Council on Aging budget had a line item of \$1,300 for a director. However, she said the COA has gone three years without a director. She said if the town did hire this position, the director salary would be about \$20,000. She said \$1,000 of the amount could be used to cover Wachusett Greenways mowing of the rail trail. Labarre said he would like to keep \$300 in the line item rather than zero it out.

Selectmen will send the budget with the changes to the finance committee as a reference in the preparing of the finance committee's budget.

COVID-19 update

Aaron Langlois gave an update on COVID-19 at the April 27 selectmen's meeting. He said Flex lab had over 3,000 COVID-19 tests it failed to process. He said it delayed information on positive cases some dating as late

as March. This delayed receiving information on a positive case in Oakham until the person recovered. Fortunately, the person self-quarantined and Langlois said as of Friday, April 24, there were no active cases in Oakham. There was no community spread.

Langlois said if the number of cases in Oakham exceeded five or above, then the state would report the numbers. He said, "Hopefully, it will stay this way."

He said the "local board of health shall disclose to the official with the responsibility administering the response to emergency calls in their jurisdiction, in Oakham the Rutland Emergency Dispatch Center, with the addresses of persons living in their jurisdiction who the local board of health has been informed tested positive for COVID-19. The disclosure of information shall be limited to the address and shall not include any other identifying information, including name."

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

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Summer soccer league officials optimistic for season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – In the advent of the high school sports spring season being cancelled and the lack of team sports being played all over the country, sights in Western Massachusetts have now begun looking at whether summer sports will be played.

Summer sports have ballooned over the years as a way to keep all athletes active during the summer months. In the past, there was only summer baseball and soccer. But basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, and even flag football have been added over time.

The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, however, nearly outlasts them all and is considered a crucial battleground for players that are vying for that competitive edge heading into the fall season.

The PVSSL has been in existence for more than 40 years, and there is some question as whether or not the season will begin on time following the cancellations that have already occurred.

Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, which hosts the PVSSL finals in early August, is the home of the semi-pro Western Mass. Pioneers. However, their season has been cancelled.

The American Legion baseball program will not have a national tournament or a World Series. However, Legion officials do hope players will have a regular season, especially with the spring baseball season cancelled.

Chris Kolodziey, who along with his wife Dianna, took over the PVSSL in place of his late father, league founder and legendary soccer contributor William Kolodziey, says they are monitoring the situation closely.

Unlike some other leagues, Dianna Kolodziey said last week there is some flexibility in holding the PVSSL season.

“We are not opposed to revising the start and end dates for the leagues, we are will continue to explore our options to get our players back on the field,” said Dianna Kolodziey.

The league typically begins play in mid-June and concludes during the final week of July with a play-off week following that.



File photos

Players from all over the region have participated in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League for more than 40 years. The league said last week it is closely monitoring the coronavirus situation, but is still hopeful the league will begin play on time in mid-June.



PVSSL plays a 10 or 11-game regular season. The league is divided into four divisions, Division A boys, Division B boys, Division A girls, and Division B girls. Larger schools highly competitive or advanced smaller schools usually participate in Division A. Division B usually includes smaller schools or situations where a larger school has two teams.

Last week, Dianna Kolodziey

placed a statement on the PVSSL website expressing the optimism of having a normal summer season.

“At this time we are keeping our hopes up and being optimistic that we will be able to move forward with the PVSSL this summer,” she stated. “Our plan is to have the a league for the summer. Chris and I along with our executive board is continuing to monitor the situation with the Corona virus (COVID-19)

throughout our nation and around the world. While this is an evolving situation, we are taking the current situation seriously and are following developments very closely.

“We will continue to monitor the situation in real time and will provide a further updates in the near future. We apologize any inconvenience this may have caused however, the safety of our PVSSL family is our highest priority.”

Dianna Kolodziey did not specifically say what steps would be taken if the season were to start, including modified rules for social distancing, and eliminating hand-shake lines after games like a number of sports plan to.

The Kolodzieys state they hope to hold registrations in early May. For more information, Kolodziey can be contacted at ckolodziey@msn.com.

Spring sports officially cancelled

Following the governor’s closure of schools for the remainder of the year, spring sports will not happen

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – After weeks of speculation back and forth, the high school sports world got the sad news it had been dreading.

Last Friday, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association’s Board of Directors was forced unanimously to cancel the spring sports season and associated tournaments.

It was a mere formality as Gov. Charlie Baker announced last Tuesday that schools in Massachusetts would remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic school year, which would have ended in mid to late June.

Baker held off for a few weeks on making the decision, hoping new coronavirus case numbers would decrease to the point where the state could begin opening up.

But as the “surge” in both new cases and deaths progressed, it became clear to Baker’s administration that putting students in schools would not be a good situation. Additionally, the Massachusetts Teachers Association pushed for the closure of schools for the remainder of the year.

The closure of school means it is not possible for athletes to play sports, putting an end to the proposed shortened, 12-game season the MIAA was hoping to play beginning on May 4. The school closure was set to expire on that day before Baker made his announcement.

The announcement gives a definitive answer the question about whether or not seniors will have their final moments in many of their respective spring sports. The decision cancels baseball, softball, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys tennis, girls tennis, boys track, girls track, boys volleyball.

See **SPRING SPORTS**, page 8

Mass. Golf cancels open event in June

NORTON – Mass Golf has made the decision to cancel the 111th Massachusetts Open, set to take place June 15-17 at Taconic Golf Club in Williamstown, due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 throughout Massachusetts and the entire country.

All six Mass Open qualifying events have also been canceled, but any exemptions from this year will carry over and be honored for the 2021 Mass Open.

Participants who have registered have received an email detailing how refunds will be processed for the Mass Open and its qualifying events.

The Mass Open is the only Mass Golf event that allows amateur and professionals from any state or country to enter and compete against one another. With a professional purse of \$75,000, the Mass Open offers one of the largest purses in the New England area.

The Four-Ball Championship was also canceled earlier this month, making the Mass Open the second of Mass Golf’s Championships to be canceled this year. This also marks the first time since 1945 that there will be no Mass Open played, as the event was not held from 1943-45 due to World War II.

“We care deeply about this historic and signature championship and have made this decision with a heavy heart,” said Jesse Menachem, Mass Golf’s Executive Director/CEO. “This is an unfortunate situation we’re dealing with in the COVID-19 era, but our absolute priority is to protect the health and safety of the Players, Officials, Volunteers, and Spectators as well as the Host Club Staff and Mass Golf Staff involved in the Mass Open and its qualifying events. Taconic has been extremely supportive throughout this decision-making

process and we are so appreciative of our long-standing partnership as well as their understanding and flexibility in what is truly an unprecedented time.”

The Qualifying schedule was as follows: Pine Brook CC (May 7); CC of Pittsfield (May 13); Kernwood CC (May 18); Ocean Edge R&CC (May 20); Pleasant Valley CC (May 26); and The Bay Club at Mattapoisett (May 28).

Oak Hill CC in Fitchburg will be the host site of the Mass Open in 2021. The club will be celebrating its centennial next year as well.

“We greatly appreciate the continued support of all our Mass Golf Member Clubs who were scheduled to host qualifying, as well as Taconic GC for their willingness to host the Championship,” said Kevin Eldridge, Mass Golf’s Director of Rules & Competitions. “We look

See **GOLF**, page 8

UWS still hopeful for 2020 season

LUDLOW – United Women’s Soccer (UWS) has reaffirmed its intent to play the 2020 season for both UWS and UWS League Two. The start of the season will be delayed in order to align with CDC guidance and we will work with all of our clubs to adjust the regular season schedule. The safety of our players, fans and staff remain our top priority and we will continue to monitor events and receive guid-

ance from local, state, and national authorities.

“First and foremost, the safety of all the players, staff and supporters will guide any final decision on the 2020 season,” said League Commissioner Joseph Ferrara Jr. “We have been working diligently on different scenarios based on potential timelines. UWS intends to provide a National Championship structure for our member teams as

it is the most important service provided by the league. Our investment into this event has made it a tremendous showcase for women’s soccer.

The New England Mutiny participate in the UWS and has recently featured several star players from Western Massachusetts.

The USL-Two, a men’s semi-professional team, recently announced the Northeast Division cancelled its regular season.

Sign-ups ongoing for Quabbin League

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this

season is \$192. For returning players, sign-ups are extended through May 1. New players can also sign up through this date with the draft currently set for May 2. The league hopes to begin play in early June.

The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one play-off game. A modified schedule is

being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass.

For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

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The Baystate Children's Hospital child life specialist offers the following websites for some additional experiences to consider: <https://www.weareteachers.com/best-virtual-field-trips/>; <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willemshttps://mommypoppins.com/kids/50-easy-science-experiments-for-kids-fun-educational-activities-using-household-stuff>

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USDA increases monthly SNAP benefits by 40 percent

Currently, a household with two adults, 3 children, and no income can receive the maximum benefit of \$768.

All SNAP households that are eligible to receive less than the maximum benefit will receive the emergency allotment supplement to bring them up to the maximum. By law, SNAP households are not permitted to receive more than the maximum allotment. SNAP emergency allotments allow states to raise benefits to the maximum amount for the household's size for up to two months, and USDA is providing additional guidance today to states that want to further extend these emergency allotments month by month as prescribed by the law.

Issuing Disaster Household Distributions, food targeted to meet specific needs when traditional channels of

These actions and more are part of USDA's focus on service during the COVID-19 outbreak. For additional information on the many actions FNS has taken to respond to COVID-19, people may visit www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus or follow them @USDANutrition.



horoscopes

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
 Pisces, you will need patience in spades this week. Others may not be able to maintain your pace, so give them the benefit of the doubt.

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to landscaping.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 16 = n)

A. 22 3 17 16
Clue: *Contains grass*

B. 23 3 12 7 24 16
Clue: *Organized plants*

C. 26 22 3 16 9 19
Clue: *Living organisms with roots*

D. 7 24 19 8 23 16
Clue: *Plan or drawing*

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to landscaping.

S A G S R

Answer: Grass

Guess Who?

I am a comic actress born in Texas on April 26, 1933. I once lived in a boarding house for women pursuing careers in acting. I have earned a Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe for my work in various genres.

Answer: Carol Burnett

YARD CARE WORD SEARCH

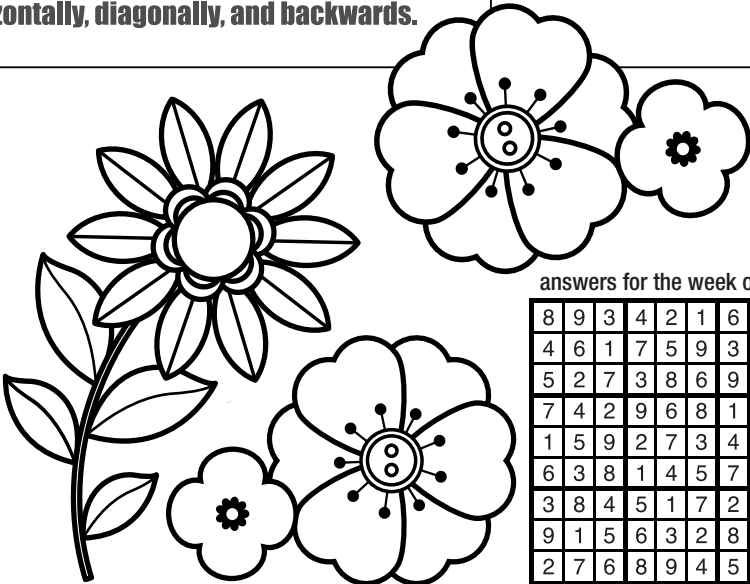
C	P	B	L	C	F	H	T	V	A	L	A	N	D	S	C	A	P	E	V
C	D	N	U	P	C	E	R	M	Z	O	G	U	Y	K	H	P	P	Y	I
E	P	C	P	R	C	M	R	P	I	E	K	M	R	P	E	B	U	H	C
E	T	L	N	C	H	I	S	T	W	F	B	Z	P	A	I	R	S	R	O
W	N	L	O	G	H	S	S	A	I	K	P	A	T	C	Z	H	R	O	B
B	Z	T	D	V	E	O	T	Z	L	L	M	W	L	C	F	R	H	E	I
K	A	L	D	C	P	E	V	Z	S	I	I	K	G	K	H	N	A	F	L
K	C	N	N	M	R	P	B	F	P	F	Z	Z	L	P	A	U	B	E	U
P	I	Y	O	U	F	P	N	L	C	F	E	D	E	S	T	L	A	L	C
R	D	C	G	U	F	D	A	E	H	D	A	E	D	I	B	V	I	L	I
T	I	L	Y	G	W	N	Y	S	E	L	Z	R	F	L	E	U	I	N	I
C	C	C	C	A	T	R	R	T	W	H	U	Y	E	S	G	O	P	T	E
I	B	N	H	I	E	E	T	N	S	C	N	A	T	S	K	O	T	G	
F	V	Z	N	H	T	W	L	E	E	C	V	A	H	G	A	R	D	E	N
K	C	G	N	T	W	F	B	M	D	L	M	E	H	N	G	R	N	N	A
I	S	R	A	W	V	G	L	D	A	K	T	C	E	A	I	U	E	I	C
O	A	M	V	R	I	H	T	N	L	I	L	E	N	V	R	E	E	A	I
W	O	M	I	B	A	Y	P	E	B	U	R	I	M	P	M	K	R	Z	F
L	N	B	W	S	D	H	P	M	M	G	C	K	V	N	C	Z	H	R	V
D	F	G	N	Y	A	P	R	A	T	N	O	B	R	A	C	T	I	L	L

WORDS

- ACIDIC
- AERATE
- ALKALINE
- AMENDMENTS
- BEAUTIFY
- BLADE
- CARBON
- COMPOST
- DEADHEAD
- FERTILIZE
- GREEN
- LANDSCAPE
- LEAVES
- MATTER
- MOW
- MULCH
- ORGANIC
- PEAT
- PLANTINGS
- PRUNE
- SHRUB
- SOIL
- TILL
- WATER

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

8			2	6	7	3		1
3	7		8				2	
2	4		1		3	7		
					1	4		7
		7			5		6	9
	5		7	8				
	1	3	6				8	4
	8		5	3	4	9	1	6
			9					3



8	9	3	4	2	1	6	7	5	5
4	6	1	7	5	3	2	2	8	4
5	5	2	7	3	8	6	9	1	4
7	4	2	9	6	8	1	5	3	3
1	5	9	2	7	3	4	8	6	2
6	3	8	1	4	5	7	9	2	2
3	8	4	1	1	7	2	6	9	9
9	1	5	6	3	2	8	4	7	7
2	7	6	8	9	4	5	3	1	1

ANSWERS WILL BE IN NEXT WEEKS PAPERS



www.newspapers.turley.com

Obituaries

Joseph Earl Bolger, 90

BARRE – Joseph Earl Bolger of Barre passed away peacefully at Heywood Memorial Hospital on April 21, 2020. He was Sandra (Ahlin) Bolger’s husband for 64 of his 90 years.

Born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada on Jan. 6, 1930 to Joseph and Elizabeth, Joe spent his childhood years in one room schoolhouses, working on his grandparent’s farm, helping in his father’s garage and bonding with his four siblings: Jack, Eva, Norma, and Chuck. His formal education ended after the eighth grade.

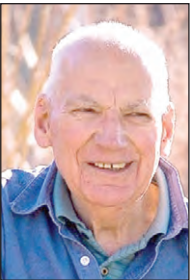
In 1946, Joe moved to Gardner, Massachusetts, finding work at Nichols & Stone. Still a Canadian citizen, he served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953, stationed in Germany and France. Joe met his sweetheart, Sandra Jane, at Cape Ann Diner in Westminster. They married in 1956 and by 1968, they had four children: Tracey (McDonald), Heidi (Johnson), Darcy (Lohr), and Brent.

After 17 years in in the furniture shop, he and a partner opened Sportsman Cycle, an early Honda motorcycle dealership in Holden.

He eventually left to utilize his self-taught engineering skills and problem-solving abilities and formed his own business, Joe Bolger Products.

In 1956, Joe also began pursuing his passion for motorcycle racing, which he followed for 15 years using the race number “54.” During his racing career, he was a five time New England Scrambles Champ and was voted Sportsman of the Year several times by his peers. He was inducted into the American Motorcycle Association Hall of Fame in 2004 as a New England Motocross Champion; designer, engineer and manufacturer of motorcycle tools and longtime contributing magazine editor. In 2013, he was inducted into the Canadian Maritime Motorsports Hall of Fame.

Joe enjoyed working in his shop, being around family, telling jokes and stories and long rides on backroads in his homemade 3-wheel car. He was a voracious reader and writer of treasured typewritten letters to friends and



family. In addition to various automotive inventions and furniture creations, he often used his engineering talents to create medical device equipment for handicapped friends.

He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren (Rachel, Garrett and Lauren McDonald; Jack Yost; Carly, Clayton and Chase Lohr; Curtis and Sydney Bolger) and many beloved nieces and nephews in the United States and Canada. He was predeceased by his parents, his siblings and their spouses and his adored son-in-law, James “Jimmy” McDonald.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Heather Abbott Foundation or Camp No Limits in memory of Joe Bolger.

To send an online condolence please visit www.mackfamilyfh.com.

Mack Family Funeral Home 105 Central St., Gardner is directing arrangements.

Earl Luke Cooley, Sr., 95

BARRE – Earl Luke Cooley, Sr , the family is heartbroken to inform of the passing of Earl Luke Cooley Sr. (affectionately known as Bumpa to many) on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at the age of 95.

Earl was born Oct. 4, 1924 in Ware, the son of Leslie and Jennie-Bell (Ryder) Cooley and grew up in Dana, one of 10 children. They were the last family to leave Dana after the Hurricane of 1938. Earl loved to return to visit Dana, Quabbin and the Swift River Valley. Former President of the Dana Reunion and a frequent visitor to the Tuesday Teas held at the Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown. he proudly wore his “Dana is my hometown” hat whenever visiting the Quabbin.

Earl served in the Army Air Corps during World War II serving as a crew chief on Douglas C-47 Skytrain (affectionately known as the “Gooney Bird”), recently being able to take a remembrance flight on the C-47 with his daughter Suzanne. Earl had flown missions in North Africa and Southwest Asia serving with the 1274th Army Air Force Base Unit.

Earl married Lois Adams July 31, 1949 celebrating their 70th anniversary last year, rais-

ing seven children in Barre. He worked for Massachusetts Electric company for 40 years as a lineman, retiring in 1987. He was a member of the Barre Congregational Church for 63 years. Active in the Barre Boy Scouts as an institutional representative for Pack/Troop 26 for 59 years, Post 2 American Legion in Barre, the Mason’s and Barre Little League. Bumpa loved taking hikes into the Quabbin Reservoir, Swift River Valley especially to his hometown of Dana and the Indian Kitchen. He made Bumpa’s Maple Syrup teaching his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren the process. He was the Market Master for 7 years for the Barre Farmers Market.

He is survived by his wife Lois; his children Kevin (Diane), Deborah (Walter) Sanders, Earl (Pepper) Jr., Ann Marie (David) Clark, Suzanne (Richard) Martin and Mark; 12 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren; brothers Dwight, Douglas and Richard; a sister Sally; many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased



by his parents, son Gordon, granddaughter Katherine Bower, daughter-in-law Denise, sisters Betty Bryant, Louise Reed, Florence May Avery, Lucille Davis, and a brother, Dorrance Cooley.

Services will be held at a later date with burial in Hardwick Center Cemetery in Hardwick. Funeral arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre.

DEATH NOTICES

Bolger, Joseph E.
Died April 21, 2020
Memorial service at a later date
Mack Family Funeral Homes

Cooley, Earl L., Sr.
Died April 25, 2020
Services will be held at a later date
Pillsbury Funeral Home

UMass Memorial receives \$120K grant from the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation

WORCESTER – Trustees of The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation have approved a grant of more than \$120,000 to strengthen UMass Memorial’s ability to protect its caregivers from infection during patient interactions. The funds will be used to acquire technology that will create a safe distance between caregivers and patients while not sacrificing quality of care. Some of the areas UMass Memorial hopes to address include telemedicine for the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), emergency services, and the equipping of its primary response areas with telemedicine tools that will limit exposure and cut down on the unnecessary use of personal protective equipment or PPE. The UMass Memorial grant is part of the McGovern Foundation’s \$8.9 million commitment to respond to COVID-19 throughout Massachusetts and California’s Bay Area.

“I am humbled by this generous contribution to the physical

well-being and peace-of-mind of our 14,000 caregivers, who have worked tirelessly, selflessly and courageously in the face of this dreadful global Pandemic,” said Eric Dickson, MD, president and CEO of UMass Memorial Health Care. “It is because of organizations like the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation that we are in a better position today to address the PPE challenges than we were a few weeks ago. I can’t say it loudly enough but I am eternally grateful for this wonderful investment in our people.”

About the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation (<https://www.mcgovern.org/about/>):

The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation is dedicated to improving lives globally with information technology, neuroscience and AI. The Foundation is the legacy of IDG founder Patrick J. McGovern, who believed in the potential for technology to democratize information, improve the human condition and advance social good.

About UMass Memorial Health Care www.umassmemorialhealthcare.org

UMass Memorial Health Care is the largest not-for-profit health care system in Central Massachusetts with more than 14,000 employees and 1,700 physicians, many of whom are members of UMass Memorial Medical Group. Member hospitals and entities include UMass Memorial HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital, UMass Memorial – Marlborough Hospital, UMass Memorial Medical Center and UMass Memorial – Community Healthlink, our behavioral health agency. With our teaching and research partner, the University of Massachusetts Medical School, our extensive primary care network and our cancer, diabetes, heart and vascular, orthopedic and surgery programs, UMass Memorial delivers safe, high-quality and compassionate care. Visit www.umassmemorialhealthcare.org.

Church News

Local pastor offer sermon

Note: The Barre Gazette staff reached out to area churches if they would provide sermons during the Coronavirus pandemic. Any pastor, priest or rabbi wishing to participate may email either barrenews@turley.com or edowner@turley.com.

The Beatitudes of Christ Pt. 1

Matthew 5–7 is a profound segment of Scripture, containing what is commonly called the Sermon on the Mount. These chapters provide for us a record of Jesus’ direct teaching on a wide array of topics. Thus, if you want to know the perspective of Christ on elements like murder and hatred, adultery and lust, marriage and divorce, personal integrity, prayer, anxiety and beyond, then the Sermon on the Mount is a great place to start!

Of particular note, this Sermon opens with the Beatitudes. Perhaps you have heard this term before—even if you are unfamiliar with the Christian faith. Specifically, the Beatitudes are statements that reveal the type of lives we are to lead as those who confess Christ as Lord. They speak to the nature of the religion we are to practice before God and among men. Please consider the following biblical excerpt:

Matthew 5:1–12 (NIV)

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain-side and sat down. His disciples came to him,

2 And he began to teach them.

He said:

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Even the most casual reading of Matthew 5:1–12 makes it clear that one of the most important words herein is the term blessed. Its significance is evidenced by its repetition (i.e., it is used nine times in so short a space)! Of course, said significance is lost to us if we do not know what the term means.

So, what is the meaning of blessed?

1) Blessed Means “Happy” or “Fortunate”

It is permissible to read Matthew 5:3, for instance, in the following manner: “An abiding happiness and fortune belongs to those who are poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Of course, we are not talking about some fleeting or temporal earthly happiness, but an abiding spiritual reality (rooted in the Person and promise of Christ).

2) Blessed Means “Favored”

Similarly, it is possible to read Matthew 5:7, as an example, in the following way: “Favored—for both time and eternity—are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” Herein, the underlying term for blessed carries the idea of commendation. That is, those who live

in the manner described by Christ are and shall be rewarded, both in this life and in the life to come.

3) Blessed Means “Envious” or “To Be Envid”

Finally, Matthew 5:9 might be recorded as follows: “To be envied are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” When Jesus identifies such wide-ranging traits as enviable, He is signaling that these are the virtues we are to pursue and aspire to. In other words, the Beatitudes definitively answer the timeless question: “How are we to live in this world?”

As this Barre Gazette submission moves to a close, I want to ask you a series of questions:

Do you desire a life characterized by abiding happiness and fortune?

Do you desire a life abounding in the favor and good grace of the Lord?

Do you desire a life that Jesus Christ identifies as esteemed and enviable?

Then take note of the hallmarks of the religion espoused by Him. Consider and embrace the Beatitudes.

It is the intent of this minister to continue this series in the weeks to come, building upon the foundation that has been established. We will take the time to explore the varied virtues we are to pursue and their corresponding promises. Until that time, please feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org. May the Lord bless you all!

Pastor James Foley
New Life Assembly of God Barre

Tri-Parish Community Church cancels plant sale

NEW BRAINTREE – It is with regret, but with an abundance of caution, that the Tri-Parish Community Church cancelled its annual plant, bake, tag and craft sale, originally scheduled for May 30 and 31. The annual event will be back the first weekend in June 202.

This event is typically held

the weekend after Memorial Day on the common in Hardwick. It features flowering plants, lush vegetables and herbs supplied by a number of local vendors each year. It the organizers hope that patrons, who normally support this event, will instead support the local vendors during this difficult time.

They include: Chicken

Feather Farm, 55 Sibly Road, New Braintree by appointment by calling 413-477-6005; Inishowen Farms, 18 North St., North Brookfield at 508-867-4012 or see them on Facebook and Stillman’s Farm, 1205 Barre Road, New Braintree at 508-867-7193, Stillmans@verizon.netor www.stillmansfarm.com.

Public Safety

New Braintree Police Log

Monday, April 13
2:59 p.m. Phone – Complaint Ravine Road – Services Rendered
3:39 p.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Ravine Road – Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 14
8:30 a.m. Initiated – Harassment New Braintree Police Department – Services Rendered
1:06 p.m. 911 – Complaint Barr Road – Spoken To

Thursday, April 16
12:41 p.m. 911 – Hang-up Call Hardwick Road – Unfounded
3:20 p.m. Initiated – Harassment

Padre Road – Officer Handled

Friday, April 17
10:07 p.m. 911 – Fire, Brush Moore Road – Checked/Secured
10:20 p.m. Phone – Suspicious Activity Old Wine Road – Negative Contact

Saturday, April 18
7:18 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Ravine Road – Services Rendered

Sunday, April 19
7:45 p.m. Phone – Alarm Memorial Drive – Officer Handled

Thursday, April 23
8:23 p.m. Phone – Disabled Motor Vehicle West Road – Vehicle Towed

Friday, April 24
4:23 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Old Turnpike Road – Citation Issued
9:23 p.m. Radio – Welfare Check Rail Trail – Investigated

Sunday, April 26
12:58 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Old Wine Road – Services Rendered

Hardwick Police Log

Monday, April 13
1:13 p.m. Phone – Motor Vehicle Accident Barre Road – Report Taken
6 p.m. Radio – Safety Hazard Upper Church Street – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, April 14
8:58 p.m. Phone – Vandalism Mechanic Street – Report Taken

Wednesday, April 15
12:25 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Barre Road – Transported to Hospital

Friday, April 17
10:03 a.m. 911 – Misdial Muddy Brook Road – Dispatch Handled

10:45 a.m. Initiated – Property Damage Main Street – Investigated
11:58 a.m. 911 – Fire, Chimney Old Greenwich Plains Road – Services Rendered
1:19 p.m. Phone – Disturbance Greenwich Road – Services Rendered
5:40 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Main Street – Services Rendered
6:40 p.m. 911 – Misdial Old Petersham Road – Spoken To
10:48 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Main Street – Transported to Hospital

Saturday, April 18
1:25 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital
3:44 a.m. 911 – Assist Citizen

Church Lane – Officer Handled
6:39 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital
11:01 a.m. Initiated – Parking Complaint Prospect Street – Services Rendered

Sunday, April 19
4:21 p.m. 911 – Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations Petersham Road – Could Not Locate
6:15 p.m. 911 – Neighbor Dispute Church Lane – No Action Required
8:19 p.m. 911 – Disturbance Bridge Street – Peace Restored
10:19 p.m. Phone – Suspicious Activity Petersham Road – Unfounded

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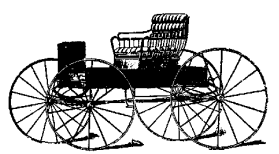
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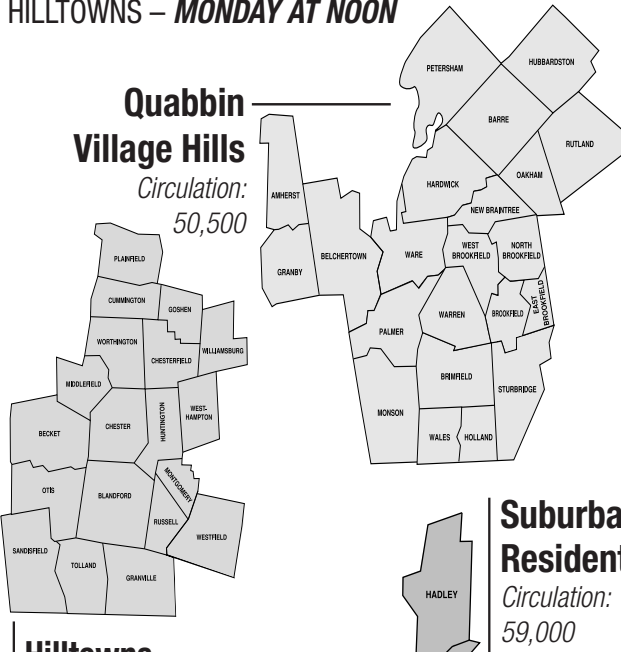
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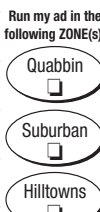
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Second Chance continues to help pets

EAST BROOKFIELD – COVID-19 may have forced Second Chance Animal Services to reschedule their annual dinner auction to Oct. 3, but the nonprofit will not let the postponement interfere with the important work of serving pets that need help right now. Pets will continue to need medical care and emergencies will happen, so Second Chance continues to care for pets with urgent medical needs at their three Community Veterinary Hospitals.

“For twenty years, the annual dinner auction has provided major funding for all the Second Chance programs that help pets in need,” said Second Chance CEO Sheryl Blancato. “Right now, the need is great. All three of our vet hospitals are seeing a dramatic increase in pets needing urgent medical care. We need to be here for all these pets.” To conserve surgical supplies, all non-essential surgeries have been rescheduled and they are directing all emergency surgeries to the North Brookfield vet hospital, which has an increased surgical capacity and an advanced care unit for critical patients. Additional safeguards have been put in place to protect the staff and pet owners so they can remain open and caring for those in need.

According to the nonprofit’s Facebook page, on a recent day two very sick dogs arrived at Second Chance’s Springfield hospital within an hour of each other, both requiring emergency surgery. Both patients’ care was transferred to the North Brookfield hospital where medical staff worked well into the night, saving both their lives.

“We are touched by the support of pet owners, who are grateful we’ve been able to stay open with precautions in place.” Second Chance hospital staff bring pets into the hospital and while pet owners talk to the doctors from the safety of their cars. “At our Worcester hospital, one pet owner stashed homemade masks and a gift card inside their cat’s carrier, along with a note thanking Second Chance for staying open to care for everyone’s babies.”

Blancato added that she knows times are challenging right now for everyone. For those who are able to help, donations can be made online at secondchanceanimals.org/donate, on the Second Chance Facebook page or via mail to 111 Young Road, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

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